

Application Serial No. 10/629,208

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 21-23 are canceled. Claims 11 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-20, and 24 are pending.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Infante (WO 97/09223) in view of Seider (US 2435021) and Either (US 4662468).

In addition, claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Infante, Seider and Kurata (US 4606429) and Ethier.

Claims 21-23 have been canceled, rendering the rejections moot.

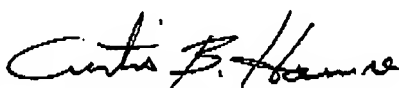
Claims 1-7, 10-17, 19, 20 and 24 have all been allowed. Applicants request that withdrawn claims 11 and 16 be examined at this time and allowed along with the remainder of the claims.

In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.

Respectfully submitted,

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